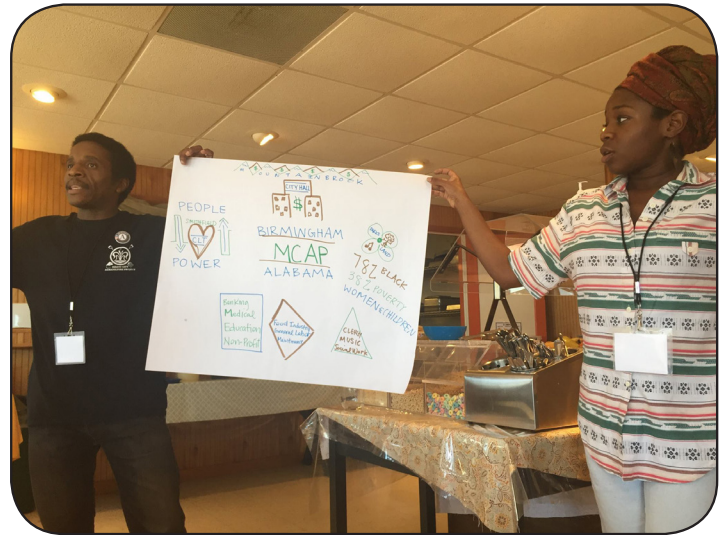


An Introduction to Highlander's Economics and Governance Curriculum

We're very excited to announce our Economics and Governance curriculum that is being tested in communities' rights now. The Citizenship Schools that were the underpinning of the civil rights movement were our inspiration. This is a curriculum steeped in popular education, built to constantly evolve and to develop a community analysis and actions. At its core is demystifying and showing how the economic and governance systems interconnect and, more importantly, to encourage people to take action and shift decision-making power and resources back into the hands of community through both resistance and building towards beautiful solutions.



Members of the Magic City Agricultural Project in Birmingham, AL share their community map created at the pilot testing in November 2015 at Highlander

We conducted an initial pilot Training of Trainers with rural and urban community groups, unions and cooperative enterprises from across the country including Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, and New York, who were enthusiastic testers and are determining how to bring it home to create the most change.

We are trying out a one day crash course and a more in-depth two day version. Either of these can also be broken down into sessions and carried out over longer times. Our work with the US Solidarity Economy Network, the Center for Popular Economics, United for a Fair Economy and our new partnership with Beautiful Solutions and the many people and the many people and groups that are our base have guided and shaped this process. And we also want to recognize the contribution of 15 brilliant educator organizers, developers and radical economists doing transformative economy and governance work in the South and beyond who helped to create this process.



Participants from the Nollie Jenkins Family Center present the map they created that details the economic eco-system that exists in their local community.



A community created map that details the many dynamics at play in the city of Jackson, MS.



Elandria Williams, an Education Team member at Highlander, and Rachel Plattus, of the New Economy Coalition, present their vision as co-editors of Beautiful Solutions to the group.

A little more about the Economics and Governance Curriculum

The curriculum first and foremost is for people and groups interested in shifting and transforming the capitalist economy and undemocratic decision-making in their communities. The curriculum is designed to offer a process that can help communities; organizations and networks develop shared analysis, ideas, stronger relationships, strategy and action. It offers a way to look at the bigger picture to see what is working, how we got here and to develop a sense of possibility around policies, practices, resistance models and beautiful solutions that communities can build, create and do.

The curriculum is participatory and adaptable. The heart of the curriculum is a community research and mapping process, along with analyzing the system we are in with a racial justice, class and patriarchy lens. Other components include family histories, learning more about the cycle of capitalism, exploring democracy and policy making while looking at alternatives that exist and ones we are currently imagining that can inspire action from local to global communities. People and communities can adapt, change, create and build from this process. This curriculum is for everybody and we hope that we all have “blow your mind moments” and learn from each other because we are all experts in our own experiences.

Interested in learning more about this project?

**Just contact the team at the
Highlander Research and Education Center:**

Elandria Williams	Elandria@highlandercenter.org
Susan Williams	Susan@highlandercenter.org
Samir Hazboun	Samir@highlandercenter.org